

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 15, 1891.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MANDERSON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 3883.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3883) for the relief of William H. Young, makes the following report:

This bill proposes to pay to William H. Young the sum of \$36,000, in full for all expenses incurred by said William H. Young in the recruiting, subsisting, and partial equipping of men and horses necessary for the completion of Young's Kentucky Light Cavalry, subsequently known as the Third Regiment Pennsylvania Cavalry, during the war of the rebellion.

This claim has been before Congress for many years, first appearing as a petition for relief in the Thirty-seventh Congress. At the first session of the Fiftieth Congress a favorable report was made upon a bill similar to the one now under consideration by the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives. From that report it appears that the claimant was verbally authorized by the Secretary of War, Hon. Simon Cameron, to raise a regiment of cavalry for the United States Army to be known as Young's Kentucky Light Cavalry. There is no record in the War Department of any such authorization, at the time it was given, but on the 27th of July, 1861, the Secretary of War, Hon. Simon Cameron, addressed a letter to Colonel Young authorizing him "in pursuance of the authority *heretofore given* to at once procure the organization of the cavalry regiment." In that connection it was further stated "your officers will not receive their commissions until your entire regiment shall have been mustered into service." On the 2d of August, 1861, a letter was sent from Hon. Thomas A. Scott, Acting Secretary of War, to Adjutant-General Thomas, of the Army, in which he says:

On the 27th of July authority was given to Col. W. H. Young by this Department to organize a regiment of cavalry. Please instruct proper officers to muster his men into the service by companies and to subsist them until the regiment is full; the whole regiment to be completed in twenty days from date.

On the 15th of July, 1861, Quartermaster-General M. C. Meigs wrote to Colonel Young as follows:

All the horses your men have on hand, that will pass inspection by the proper United States officer authorized to inspect them, will be received and paid for by the United States in accordance with the usual mode. Articles of clothing contracted for by you, if in conformity with the regulations and pass the inspection will also be received on the same terms. The price of cavalry horses delivered in Washington is \$125. Major Ruff, mustering officer, will, upon being shown this, inspect your horses.

On the 11th of September General George Stoneman, chief of cavalry, wrote Colonel Young as follows:

Allow me to congratulate you upon having put the first regiment of cavalry in the field. You have by care, perseverance, and energy succeeded, in spite of the many difficulties you have had to contend with, in organizing twelve companies all of which are now engaged on duty with the various brigades that constitute this Army. I trust the Government will duly appreciate the result of your labors.

It is quite evident from these communications that Colonel Young was authorized by the War Department to raise a regiment of cavalry and that he succeeded in recruiting twelve companies. Indeed, he seems to have been mustered in as the colonel of such cavalry regiment. It is also quite evident that he spent money, perhaps in large quantity, for the subsistence of the men and horses from some time in the month of April, 1861, to August, 1861. He claims to have expended about \$100,000 for this purpose, but as to the character of these expenditures and the proofs that have been brought to the attention of the committee concerning it, more will be said hereafter. It does not appear that Colonel Young ever took his regiment into the field or that he really ever performed any service with it except to recruit the men who composed it. His muster into service on the 10th of July, 1861, seems to have been improper, for the reason that the regiment was not then completed. It was, however, completed sometime after this, and if we are to rely upon the statement of General Stoneman, Colonel Young was then undoubtedly entitled to muster as colonel of the regiment.

On the 23d of August, 1861, Captain Averill was mustered as colonel of Young's Kentucky Cavalry, which became the Third Pennsylvania Cavalry. The reasons for this displacement of Colonel Young by Colonel Averill appear quite fully in Report No. 3367 of the first session of the Fiftieth Congress, made upon a bill for the relief of Colonel Young by the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives. It is not necessary to refer to that transaction here, save to say, that it is quite probable that an act of injustice was done Colonel Young by this displacement, for the reason that a resignation of commission was afterwards obtained from him, and on the 19th of August, 1880, he was placed upon the pension roll, the pension to date from November 1, 1861, the date that he resigned his commission, and arrears of pension were paid to him to the extent of about \$5,000. The record of the services of the claimant, so far as it appears in the Adjutant-General's office, will be shown by the following letter dated April 1, 1880, from the Adjutant-General of the Army to the Secretary of War:

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE.

Washington, April 1, 1880.

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith the letter of Hon. Frank Hereford, United States Senator, and the memorial of William H. Young and his wife, F. Llewellyn Young, of Buffalo, N. Y., submitted by Senator Hereford for a statement of the military record of said Young as colonel of the Third Pennsylvania Cavalry (Young's Kentucky Light Cavalry) and in reply thereto, have respectfully to report that William H. Young appears to have been mustered into service as colonel on July 10, 1861. The authority given him to raise a regiment of cavalry is not of record in this office, although reference is made to such authority being given in letters from the Secretary of War dated July 27 and August 2, 1861, respectively.

It would seem that within a short time after his muster into service representations were made by General Stoneman, commanding volunteer cavalry division, Army of the Potomac, "that the colonel was exercising a very pernicious influence among the men of the regiment," that it "was almost upon the verge of mutiny, without the least order or discipline, and in spite of all his efforts to improve their condition, they were daily becoming more demoralized from the influence alluded to." In addition, charges of an attempt to defraud the Government in the purchase of horses also in the matter of equipments and rations, were preferred against him. Copy of a communication relating thereto is herewith appended.

Under the circumstances referred to Colonel Young was denied recognition and Capt. William W. Averill, Third Cavalry, U. S. Army, was thereupon mustered in as colonel, Third Pennsylvania Cavalry, to date from August 23, 1861.

In January, 1862, Hon. Thomas B. Florence, of Pennsylvania, presented a statement respecting Colonel Young, in which the latter requested to be recognized in the rank mustered until the date he was officially relieved as colonel. The statement was submitted to the Secretary of War as follows :

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, *February 28, 1862.*

Respectfully returned to the honorable Secretary of War.

Colonel Young and Colonel McReynolds were both improperly mustered into the service on the 10th of July, 1861, before their regiments were completed. The Adjutant-General therefore refused to acknowledge these musters. Subsequently, it being deemed very prejudicial to the interests of the service, to allow Colonel Young to remain longer in charge of troops in service, Prince Salm Salm was on the 10th day of September, 1861, appointed colonel of the regiment. Up to the present time Colonel Young's muster into the service has not been recognized by the War Department, but as the muster of Colonel McReynolds has been confirmed, it is respectfully recommended that Colonel Young be recognized as the colonel of the regiment known as Young's Kentucky cavalry from the 10th day of July, 1861, when mustered in, till the 16th day of September, 1861, the date of appointment of Salm Salm.

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant-General.

The case was returned to the office March 20, 1862, the recommendation of the Adjutant-General having been approved by the Secretary of War on the 17th of the same month.

It is proper to remark that Captain Averill replaced Colonel Young in command of the Third Pennsylvania Cavalry and not Prince Salm Salm, as mentioned in the indorsement of the Adjutant-General, the prince having been assigned to another command.

In April, 1862, Col. W. H. Young tendered his resignation, to date from October 31, 1861, which resignation was accepted from that date. The acceptance referred to should have been from August 23, 1861, the date of Captain Averill's muster as colonel, but inadvertently was made to date from October 31, 1861.

Colonel Young, however, appears to have drawn pay from July 10, 1861, until October 31, 1861, although there is no evidence on file in this office that he rendered any service as an officer Third Pennsylvania Cavalry.

In regard to the memorial herewith, the records do not show that Colonel Young rendered service or incurred any expense in raising the Third Pennsylvania Cavalry. Several accounts have already been paid to officers of that regiment on account of recruiting expenses incurred in 1861, and it seems strange that the colonel has rested until this late date before presenting his claims for reimbursement of moneys alleged to have been expended by him.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant-General.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

It seems to be quite evident that much expense was incurred in the recruiting and subsisting of this cavalry regiment, and perhaps a large portion of it was expended by the claimant, Colonel Young. The difficulty, however, seems to be, first, that the claimant is unable to bring forward any vouchers or any reliable testimony to show the extent of such expenditures, and second that he made claim for payment when the matter was fresh, and has been paid for expenditures made. In pursuing the investigation, the committee caused Colonel Young to be examined under oath. He stated that he was much embarrassed by the reason that many of the parties to whom he had paid money were dead, and that he had lost through agents and attorneys all the receipts and vouchers that he had obtained. He produces no evidence whatever of payment, and he stated in his examination that he was unable to give the names of any persons to whom he had paid money

for the subsistence of horses or men, and he shows a lack of knowledge of the circumstances that is really astonishing. He claims that he paid out about \$100,000 in money from the middle of April to about the middle of August, of which sum about \$65,000 was in gold. He swears that this large sum of money was disbursed by him without a deposit in a bank or a check being given for any part of it. In his testimony he is quite mysterious as to the whereabouts of this money, claiming at last that the \$65,000 in gold was in an old trunk in his possession, from which he obtained it as he needed it to pay bills.

Your committee has been unable to find any testimony, worthy of the name, upon which it can base a bill for his relief to the extent of \$36,000 or any other sum.

The Government has paid about \$10,000 for the expenses attending the recruiting and subsisting of this regiment. This will appear in full detail by a letter from Adjutant-General R. C. Drum to the Secretary of War, dated April 9, 1888. It is as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, April 9, 1888.

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith letter from the Senate Committee on Military Affairs of the 3d instant, referring Senate bill 1426 for reimbursement of moneys alleged to have been expended by William H. Young, late colonel of Young's Kentucky Cavalry, and requesting certain information relative thereto, and in reply to report as follows:

The records of this office show that on October 30, 1877, Colonel Young made application for information relative to the organization of the Third Pennsylvania Cavalry (formerly known as Young's Kentucky Cavalry), its cost to the Government, etc., for the purpose of preparing a claim for relief. He was informed on October 31, 1877, that the information requested was of such a character that it could not, under the rules of the Department, be furnished for the purpose stated; the official records being held for the verification of claims, and were not open for use as the basis for them.

On March 17, 1880, a memorial, bill, and brief of Col. William H. Young and wife, in support of their claim for reimbursement of \$64,000 for expenses alleged to have been incurred in organizing the Young's Kentucky Cavalry in 1861, was referred by Hon. Frank Hereford, of the Senate Subcommittee on War Claims, and under date of April 1, 1880, a report in the case was made to the Secretary of War (copy herewith). Nothing further appears of record until February 21, 1883, when another report was made on Senate bill 1025 to Secretary of War for Hon. Angus Cameron, chairman of Senate Committee on Claims, which gave the history of the organization of Colonel Young's regiment in full.

It is also shown by the records that Colonel Young was paid the sum of \$596 on June 7, 1862, by Capt. John Elwood, mustering and disbursing officer at Washington, D. C., in settlement of his account for subsisting men of his regiment from June 16 to July 15, 1861; and the further sum of \$88 on similar account September 13, 1862, while large amounts were paid about the same time to the company officers of his regiment and others on vouchers certified to by him, among which are cited the following, viz:

Lieut. H. E. Colby, quartermaster of regiment.....	\$500.00
Capt. E. B. Martin, Company A, subsistence, etc.....	206.02
Capt. Thomas H. Town, Company B, subsistence, etc.....	1,042.00
Lieut. Charles F. Gillies, Company C, subsistence, etc.....	793.60
Lieut. George H. Brannix, Company C, subsistence, etc.....	990.40
Capt. L. S. Burrows, Company E, subsistence, etc.....	1,182.00
Capt. William H. Hamlin, Company K, subsistence, etc.....	587.20
Lieut. Peter Lane, Company M, subsistence, etc.....	884.40
Capt. J. C. White, Company L, subsistence, etc.....	228.00
Capt. John C. Gallagher, subsistence, etc.....	548.40
S. M. Ramsey, subsistence, etc.....	936.80
W. H. W. Kendig, subsistence, etc.....	514.71
Jesse E. Peyton, rent of house and grounds.....	440.00
Jesse E. Peyton, subsistence.....	354.00
R. Crouse and C. Long, subsistence.....	200.00
Dr. S. H. Ridgely, medical attendance July and August, 1861.....	231.62

These claims were paid at Washington by Capts. John Elwood and H. Clay Wood, mustering and disbursing officers, in June, July, August, and September, 1862, and it seems strange that Colonel Young did not present any other claim that he may have had against the United States to the officers charged with the investigation and payment of such claims at the time in Pennsylvania or at Washington when the claims of his officers were settled.

In the opinion of this office favorable action should not be taken on the accompanying bill.

It is suggested that Colonel Young should furnish a complete list of the persons to whom he claims to have paid the \$64,000, alleged to have been disbursed by him, in order that a thorough investigation of the case can be made to ascertain if the Government has not already paid to other parties the amounts now claimed to be due him.

I am sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

From the foregoing letter it will be seen that many of the captains of companies and other persons were paid sums of money ranging from \$200 to \$1,200. It will also appear that Colonel Young presented, in the early part of 1862, a claim for the subsisting of the men of his regiment from June 16, 1861, to July 15, 1861, and received on June 7, 1862, \$596 from Captain John Elwood, mustering and disbursing officer at Washington, D. C. It will also appear from this letter that he received the further sum of \$88 on similar account on the 13th of September, 1862. It is quite evident that Colonel Young made claim, after all disbursements had been made to the proper officers of the Government, for the refunding of the expenditures made by him. It seems very strange that at that time, when all the facts were fresh in his recollection and he must have been possessed of the vouchers and receipts, that he did not lay claim to the enormous amount that he now alleges he disbursed for the subsistence of the regiment, all connection with which had ceased, so far as he was concerned, months before the claim was made. It will be observed that it is the opinion of the Adjutant-General's Office of the Army that favorable action should not be taken upon the bill, and this conclusion seems to be acquiesced in by the Secretary of War. For these reasons the committee have not been able to see their way to allowing any part of the claim presented by Colonel Young, and recommend that the bill be indefinitely postponed.

